

Dear Friends,

How have we strayed so far??? How have we turned a promise that a family (Abraham and Sarah) would be blessed by following God who led them so the whole world would be blessed through them? How have we turned from the Psalmist who declared how good it is when siblings dwell in unity? How is it that we have turned from the prophet Isaiah proclaiming all humans gathering together with all the animals and mortal enemies will live in peace and study war no more? How have we turned from Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who said that all the prophets and the all the laws are summed up by “treating others as you would want them to treat you”. Who prayed, “that they may all be one, as Jesus and God are one,” and commanded, “that you love another like I have loved them. By this all will know that you are my followers, by your love...”; into a gun-wielding, flag-waving, hate-spewing religion that fears and hates anything that doesn't look and act in a prescribed manner?

It is very easy to blame THEM, whether a political party, a religion (many deny that Evangelical nationalism is Christianity), the wealthy, the poor, the blacks, or the whites. The authors and speakers in a book called, We are in the Middle of Forever: Indigenous Voices from Turtle Island on the Changing Earth answer this question by saying we have lost the kinship and relationship the ties us to each, ties us to the world, and to the Great Spirit (God) who has woven us and weaves life into all. This would echo the Ten Commandments that tell us to worship only One God, have no idols, and not to covet your neighbor's stuff. This would echo this week's gospel in which Zacchaeus is saved by being brought back into the community, declared he is once more a son of Abraham.

How do we return to these simple, eternal, and powerful truths? The Indigenous speakers counsel us to lose our fear and live rightly, which our Bible and theology echo and share, “Do not be afraid.” Let us work on losing our fear, filling ourselves with love, and working for justice for all, which includes the planet. Breath by breath, step by step, day by day.

Peace,
Pastor Enno